

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

I am writing in support of **Governor's Bill No. 983 AN ACT LIMITING ANTICOMPETITIVE HEALTH CARE PRACTICES** and **Raised Bill No. 6620 AN ACT PROMOTING COMPETITION IN CONTRACTS BETWEEN HEALTH CARRIERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

I am a resident of New Haven Connecticut and as a resident it is impossible not to see the Yale New Haven Health logo everywhere.

Big healthcare systems, like Yale New Haven Health have been buying up smaller providers creating a dominant mega healthcare system. This reduces the number of options available to patients and limits their ability to choose healthcare providers that best suit their needs.

The consolidation of hospitals and providers into large health systems in Connecticut has stifled competition, allowing prices to rise unchecked. The reduced competition resulting from consolidation has resulted in higher prices for consumers, leading to a rise in the cost of insurance premiums. In essence, the consolidation has resulted in the creation of monopolies of care in the state of Connecticut. Leading to price hikes that affect people's ability to access care.

Large health systems use anticompetitive contract clauses to demand higher prices without better quality. The bargaining power of large healthcare providers has allowed them to demand higher prices from insurance companies. These practices have resulted in a situation where people are paying more for the same level of care, leading to decreased access to healthcare for those who cannot afford it.

Other states have taken action to lower prices and it's working to control insurance premiums. States that have passed these provisions have saved 5% or more on premiums. Connecticut should follow in the footsteps of these states and take action to curb the power of large healthcare providers. Legislation to promote competition in the healthcare industry is necessary to help lower costs and improve the quality of care. By reducing the power of large healthcare providers, we can make healthcare more accessible and affordable for everyone in Connecticut.

I urge the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to take action and pass **Governor's Bill No. 983** and **Raised Bill No. 6620** promote competition in the healthcare industry and help lower costs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis Luna